

February 24, 2011

Board of Selectmen  
195 Main Street  
Maynard, Massachusetts  
01754



Re; Town Administrator Report

Honorable Board of Selectmen,

Please accept this report as an abridged version of Town Hall recent activities which are of importance to you as a member of the Board;

**Maynard Matters:** Representative Kate Hogan appeared at the February 25, 2011 session to speak about legislative issues and municipal challenges. I raised the issue of strengthening protections for small business owners who are incubating businesses in leased space and how they are adversely impacted by "absentee" or disinterested landlords. I tried to articulate the harmful cumulative effect this situation can have to a central business district in a town.

There were other issues discussed including expanding available licenses for restaurants, as you are aware Representative Hogan will be at the Board meeting on Tuesday so I am sure there will be other topics and issues which will be discussed at that time.

**Snow Removal:** It seems improbable that fifteen days after the last storm we are still suffering the effects and absorbing costs related to the series of winter storms which besieged us in late December, January and early February. The melt has started and the DPW is managing the thaw as best they can, they are actively clearing storm drains, re-treating trouble spots, filling potholes and pushing bank embankments.

This week they spent several days opening up sidewalks and removing banks in the area around the Library, Glendale Street and Memorial Park. They were finally able to access the power source for the Holiday lights and shut them off for the season. The other focus was the sidewalks, access roads and parking lots around the school campus. The staff of the DPW increased parking capacity at all the schools and removed piles which were affecting visibility. They also attempted to free up some of the sign boards as requested by the school administration.

The process of removing the scars of winter will continue well into April and even May. Think spring!

**Maynard High School Scholarship Program:** The Scholarship Committee recently met and have decided to streamline the fund accounts, which is supported by Bartholomew Financial who holds the trusts. We will attempt this year to get the available amounts to the schools in the next two weeks and have checks made out to the recipients by the end of April.

I believe all parties involved are excited about the cooperative attempts to streamline the process and avoid the un-pleasantries of previous years.

**Advertising of Tax Titles:** Attorney Peter Brown is preparing to advertise tax titles. I would like you to be on notice as you may get some calls from constituents. Please be aware we are very anxious to work with all parties to avoid any actual takings. This is required process by the DOR and I would encourage anyone who has a concern to direct the inquiries to administration so I can properly explain the process.

**Health Insurance Increases:** I recently discussed the Health Insurance increases with Jill Shaw from MIAA, she will be out with some final figures in another week to ten days. Where we stand now is the overall increase for the plan is 10.85%, with healthcare reform we are now required not to allow for

deductibles to be assessed for most preventative care. This federal mandate will add to the increase cost for the town, due to different trends in each plan the effect will not be homogenous. There may have to be an adjustment to the FY12 budget request, what that will be still needs to be determined. I believe after I meet with Ms. Shaw I will be better able to address the issue.

**Building Blocks Grant:** We did receive confirmation that our grant application was confirmed by HUD as received. This grant will allow us to better understand how we may provide better understanding of the viability and vitality in respect to walking in this community.

I hope you have a great weekend and I will see you on Monday!

Thank you,

Michael Sullivan  
Town Administrator, Maynard